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New Pathways to Gold Society First Nations Newsletter

The New Pathways to Gold Society (NPTGS) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that partners with First Nations, communities and all levels of government to develop and deliver projects supporting local economies and creating heritage tourism assets. Since 2007, NPTGS has worked with Indigenous communities in the Hope-Barkerville corridor to advance First Nations reconciliation and create a more inclusive narrative of our shared history.

The Society is governed by a Board of Directors representative of broad skill sets, inclusive of First Nations and regions from Hope to Barkerville. Half the Directors are Indigenous representatives. There are two co-chairs, one of whom is Indigenous. You can learn more about the directors by visiting the NPTGS website's [About Us](#) section.

In this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to work with Indigenous communities on projects all along the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails. This newsletter provides a snapshot of the major projects and the Indigenous communities we're partnering with to create a New Pathway to Prosperity. You can find more information on the [NPTGS website](#). We look forward to continue to work together as we look forward to the post-COVID-19 era and rebuilding our local economies.



Cheryl's Drum

—Cheryl Chapman, Indigenous Co-Chair, New Pathways to Gold Society

Weytk-p (hello to all), communities along the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails from Hope to Barkerville and beyond. I want to thank you for welcoming me to your virtual space. I come as a friend, neighbour, ally and relative.

Please take some time to explore the history of the New Pathways to Gold Society. See the relationships we have developed and maintained, check out the projects we have assisted with, contemplate how we may be able to assist your community in respectfully bringing the world to your territory, to explore and learn your truths, not only about the gold rush and its impacts on your community and its members, but your living history. Share your language, culture, successes and struggles, gain public appreciation and create allies in working towards your goals.

Holding each other up and assisting each other in reaching our goals and dreams for our families and our communities. Working together to balance future success, with traditional values, including language, culture and connections to each other, our lands, water and neighbours. Through stories, laughter, music, food and shared decision-making we will be able to move forward together.

I have over 30 years of experience, including 11 years with NPTGS, working with Indigenous

and non-Indigenous people, Indigenous communities, businesses and all levels of government. I enjoy capacity building, sustainable community economic development and building mutually beneficial relationships. My passion is education through tourism.

We need to take this time to evaluate where we would like to be in the future, the Elders said this time would come and the world would look to us, the original people, for the answers to creating a better place. Take this valuable time reflecting on the teachings, please set aside the anger, hurt and resentments. We can rebuild a better world for our future generations.

I have faith in our collective success. Our strength comes from effective communications that actively and meaningfully includes all our communities along the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails. Please enjoy this newsletter and let us know how we can help you in your community.

Kukwstsétsemc!



CANIM LAKE/WHISPERING PINES UPDATE: Cariboo Waggon Road Restoration Project Builds on Indigenous Foundation

The Cariboo Waggon Road was built on a foundation of First Nations trails used by B.C.'s Indigenous peoples for centuries before the arrival of Europeans and other newcomers. And it's in the spirit of that Indigenous foundation that NPTGS is working with First Nations on the

Cariboo Waggon Road Restoration Project (CWRRP).

"The potential economic benefits of this project to First Nations communities are tremendous," says NPTGS Indigenous Co-Chair Cheryl Chapman.

"This has the potential to attract visitors from all over the world who will need goods and services -- as well as authentic experiences -- that Indigenous communities can provide."

The project is being coordinated by NPTGS. Phase One is seeing the section between Clinton and 127 Mile GPSed and accurately identified. This work is taking place in the traditional territories of the High Bar First Nation, Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band and the Canim Lake Band/Tsq'escenemc. NPTGS is working with these communities to ensure the Indigenous foundation of the road route is articulated through inclusive interpretive materials, stories about the impact of the road on First Nations and identifying traditional place names.

The project has the support of many other partners, including the Cariboo Regional District, District of 100 Mile House, BC Parks and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC. For more information, check out the NPTGS website's [Major Projects section](#).



LYTTON FIRST NATIONS UPDATE:
**Chief Cexpe'nthlEm Memorial Precinct
Revitalization Project**

(**KUMSHEEN**) Chief Cexpe'nthlEm (1812–1887) of the Nlaka'pamux Nation was a visionary leader and a tireless advocate for peace in turbulent times. He was instrumental in ending the Canyon War of 1858 between the Indigenous Peoples of the Canyon and the of gold-seeking miners flooded into his people's traditional territory.

Currently, the memorial to this remarkable leader is a relatively modest stone cross atop a concrete base on the grassy grounds of the Anglican Church complex of St. Barnabas, next to the Parish Hall in Lytton. The site is unfenced and without any interpretive materials other than the brief inscriptions on the monument itself.

The Chief Cexpe'nthlEm Memorial Precinct Restoration Project is a partnership between the Lytton First Nation, Village of Lytton, the St. Barnabas Parish (Anglican Diocese of the Cariboo) and NPTGS. The project will see this historic site fenced, landscaped and considerable interpretive signage installed.

"This project will see a fitting memorial created for Chief Cexpe'nthlEm, who should be recognized as one of the co-founders of modern British Columbia," says NPTGS Director Byron Spinks (Canyon-Indigenous).

"Not only will it celebrate Cexpe'nthlEm's legacy, it will create a new Indigenous heritage asset in the Nlaka'pamux Nation's traditional territory."

For more details, visit the NPTGS website's [Projects Section](#).



SPUZZUM FIRST NATION UPDATE:

Spuzzum First Nation Leads Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park and Precinct Revitalization Project

(**SPUZZUM**) NPTGS is proud to partner with the Spuzzum First Nation (SFN), which is leading the Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park and Precinct Revitalization Project in their traditional territory. SFN has built a broad coalition of partners and supporters, including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BC Parks, the BC Heritage Branch, HeritageWorks/Heritage BC and CN.

Supporters include numerous outdoor recreation, heritage tourism and other community organizations and businesses as well as civic governments, including the Fraser Valley Regional District. Premier John Horgan is also a supporter and a member of the Friends of the 1926 Alexandra Bridge Society.

"This project fits into the development plans we have for our Nation, including a campsite, housing and a convention centre," says NPTGS Director Chief James Hobart.

"As a package, the project and SFN development will create a major heritage tourism asset in the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails corridor that will provide employment for Indigenous and other people."

The project partners have been working since 2009 to preserve the historic 1926 Alexandra Bridge and develop the adjacent 55-hectare Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park site's heritage tourism potential. The current phase of the project is focused on bridge structure preservation/restoration, site redevelopment and getting a safe crossing across the CN line.

For more information on this exciting initiative, check out the NPTGS website [projects section](#).



XATŚŪLL FIRST NATION UPDATE:

NPTGS Invests in Xatśūll First Nation Trails Project

(XATŚŪLL) NPTGS is contributing \$7,500 towards the Soda Creek Indian Band's Xatśūll Trails Project in 2020. The funding will go towards an 8.5 km extension of the existing Deep Blue Soda Trail to connect to XFN's Whispering Willows Campground and beyond to the Ridge East overlooking the Deep Creek reserve.

"This project in the traditional territory of the Soda Creek Indian Band is one very dear to our hearts," said NPTGS Director Roy Christopher (South Cariboo-Indigenous).

"Trail construction has resulted in higher visitation and increased commercial development. Construction also provides employment, especially for local Indigenous youths."

The project is the first step in connecting the Xatśūll Trails System with the City of Williams Lake's Fox Mountain Trails network. This would create a network of dozens of kilometers of world class hiking and biking trails that not only connect other Indigenous communities/amenities (i.e. the Williams Lake Indian Band), but also tie into the Gold Rush

Trails themselves.

As of the end of 2019, NPTGS has provided a total of \$70,000 towards the project. With the payment of \$7,500 to be made in 2020, the total investment in the project will total \$77,750.

For more information, please check out the NPTGS website [projects section](#).



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